

[CONFIDENTIAL]

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

ODH, CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR.

Received up to 28th August, 1879.

POLITICAL.

THE *Anjumani Panjab* of the 22nd August states that it appears from the *Golos* that the

Circulation,
408 copies.

Russia and Merv.

Russian advanced guard has proceeded towards Merv, and that the main army was to start about the middle of August. This shows that Russia has determined to reduce Merv to subjection like Bokhara and Khiva. The Russian army will no doubt be exposed to great danger and inconvenience on the way. It will have to traverse the desert of Karakum, where, to say nothing of food grains, even water is very scarce. The Turkomans may keep the Russian army at bay for a short time, but they will not be able to encounter it long, and the fall of Merv seems to be inevitable. When Khiva was menaced by the Russians, the chief of that country sent his ambassador to His Excellency the Viceroy, and asked for aid, but the Government of India did not accede to his wishes. Similarly, the Turkomans will now probably apply to the Government for assistance, but there is

reason to think that it will not espouse their cause. However, in our opinion, it would be better if it interfered and effected a reconciliation between the Turkomans and the Russians in a manner beneficial to its own interests. The occupation of Merv by the Russians will be a standing menace to Herat and Kabul. Russia wishes to extend her conquests to the British frontier, but, to our thinking, it is not wise to have a powerful neighbour like Russia. We hope that Major Cavagnari will satisfactorily settle the Central Asian difficulty.

NATIVE STATES.

Circulation,
175 copies.

The *Malwa Akhbār*, Indore, of the 22nd August, publishes an account of the late visit of Maharaja Sindhia to Maharaja Holkar at Indore. The latter gave a feast in his honor, and offered three jewelled ornaments, thirty-seven clothes, five arms, one elephant and two horses as presents.

Circulation,
155 copies.

The *Vrita Dhara* of the 18th August states that Anna Sahib, the chief of Vinchur, a small native State in the Nasik district, has no son. He applied to the Government of India for permission to adopt a son, but the Government has refused him permission to do so. The cause of the refusal has not transpired. If it is the object of the Government that the younger brother of Anna Sahib should succeed him, he should be allowed to adopt a son, who should perform his funeral ceremonies on his death and inherit his personal estates. Some persons suspect that the Government may be anxious to annex the State on his death. In order to remove all these doubts, it would be better to publish the judgment of the Secretary of State *in extenso*. Anna Sahib rendered great services to Government in the mutiny and other critical times. If he is not permitted to adopt a son, it will be generally considered that his services have not been requited by Government.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The *Samáchar Sár* (the Bengali paper of Allahabad) of

Circulation,
500 copies.

The reduction of the
military charges.

the 15th August states that every thoughtful person will admit that there is great room for retrenchment in the military charges, which amount to one-third of the total revenues of India. Sir Ashley Eden has been appointed president of the Army Commission. Whatever other faults may be in his character there is no doubt that he does everything thoroughly which he understands well, and shows no partiality to any man. We hope that greater good will accrue from the Army Commission than from the Famine Commission. Some troops are maintained in England for employment in India in the event of an emergency. India has to pay the expenses of these troops, which amount to some millions sterling. We are at one with Sir John Strachey in thinking that it would reflect great credit upon the justice and generosity of Englishmen if they exempted India from the payment of this expense. The *Samáchar Sár* then makes the following proposals for the favourable consideration of the Army Commission :—

First.—That the British army in India should be reduced and the native army increased. This reform will curtail the army expenditure without impairing the efficiency of the army.

Secondly.—That native volunteer corps should be formed in each province. Young educated natives are anxious to be admitted into the army, but they do not like to associate with ignorant native soldiers.

Thirdly.—That the Public Works Department build barracks at an extravagant cost, and still the buildings are not durable, and require extensive repairs.

The same paper states that since the time of Lord Lawrence the native and Anglo-Indian newspapers have been protesting against the annual migrations of the

The annual migrations of
the Government of India
to Simla.

Government of India to Simla on economical grounds, but in vain. The Calcutta correspondent of the *London Times* also lately strongly contended that the hill migrations should be stopped during the present financial pressure. The organs of the Government defend the hill migrations on the ground that the heat of the plains during the hot weather would be prejudicial to the health of the Viceroy and the members of his council. True the cold climate of the hills is beneficial to the health of the officials, but we do not think that the heat of the plains would so impair their health as to prevent them from performing their duties satisfactorily. European engineers and surveyors live in the plains during the whole year, and their health is not impaired. Some persons might reply that the Viceroy and the members of his council belong to higher classes of the community than the engineers and surveyors, and are accustomed to greater ease and comfort. But then look at the rich English merchants of Calcutta : they live in Calcutta during the whole year, and even in Assam and Rangpur, where the heat is greater than at Calcutta. Lord Lawrence spent the greater part of his life in India. He lived at different places in the country during all the seasons, and worked very hard, but he did not die an untimely death. In the time of the late Behar famine Lord Northbrook lived at Calcutta during the hot weather. Lord Canning also lived at Calcutta during the mutiny, but his health in no way suffered from the heat. As regards the members of the Viceregal Council, it will be sufficient to state that they are generally old Indian officials who have lived in different parts of the country during all the seasons, and are inured to the Indian climate. We do not think that as soon as they are appointed members of the Viceregal Council their bodies become so tender that the hot winds of Calcutta would scorch them. Last year at the time of submitting his budget Sir John Strachey declared that the public expenditure could not be reduced by a farthing, but the pressure of the Home Government has rendered reduction possible, and

the work of retrenchment has already commenced. It is alleged that the stoppage of the hill migrations is impossible, because residence in the plains will injure the health of the Viceroy and other high officials, and cause untimely deaths. But the mere word of the Secretary of State is sure to render the stoppage possible.

The *Berar Samáchár* of the 17th August states that the Deccan Ryots Relief Bill aims at improving the condition of the agricultural population in the Deccan, which has lately become very wretched. But as the provisions of the Bill are absolutely hostile to the money-lenders, it will probably not long continue in force. The heavy assessment of the Government demand, and the collection of the revenue instalments with severity, and not the extortion of the money-lenders, are the chief causes of the poverty of the peasantry. No Indian legislation lasts long, and the Bill in question will prove no exception to the rule. A commission was lately appointed to inquire into the causes of the late Deccan riots; another to inquire into the causes of the repeated occurrence of famine; another to inquire into the causes of the increase of rats, and so forth. If a commission were appointed to find out why so many laws and regulations have been passed in India, and to suggest measures for checking the increase of legislation, the causes which necessitated the appointment of various commissions would be removed. If the laws of a country are just and impartial, peace and tranquillity prevail in that country. If they are favourable to one class of the community and hostile to another, riots and disturbances are frequent. Legislation is a very difficult and delicate task. Every man cannot be a lawgiver. The laws enacted by Manu, Muhammad, and Napoleon, hundreds of years ago, are still respected and observed by the people for whom they were intended. If we inquired how many laws were enacted by the Government of India within the last fifty years,

Circulation,
250 copies.

and for how many years each of them continued in force, the results of our inquiries would really be very amusing. When a man was appointed a Mamlatdar in the time of the Moghals, and went to take charge of his new office, he sat on his horse with his face turned towards the tail, in order to see if another man came after him to supersede him in the office. Similarly, when a man now purchases a copy of an Act, he is not sure that he will be able to use it for a long time. Before the public has cut the pages of the Civil Procedure Code, a new amendment Act has been passed. Before the public has well mastered the Indian Penal Code, the draft of a new Penal Code has been published. It is well-known that the Stamp Act and the Limitation Act do not long continue in force. The cause of the frequent changes in the law is that the term of the tenure of office fixed for the higher officers is very small. Every officer during his short term of office tries to introduce as many reforms as possible in order to acquire fame. The legislative machine is so rapidly worked, that it sometimes becomes unbearable to the people. We do not mean to say that laws should not be amended, nor reforms introduced, but that reforms should be slow, and that laws should be very carefully enacted, in order that it may not be necessary to make frequent changes and alterations.

Circulation,
250 copies.

The same paper expresses its gratitude to Lord Lytton for the new rules which he has framed about the admission of natives into the civil service, and which have been lately sanctioned by the Secretary of State. The writer then refers to the summary of the rules as given in the Simla telegram of the 12th August, and remarks that only one-seventh of the recruits appointed to the civil service every year will be natives, which is a very small proportion. If twenty-five recruits are appointed in a year, only two or three of them will be natives. Formerly the Home Government fixed the proportion of native civilians at one-fifth. At all events something is better than

The admission of natives
into the civil service by
the nomination system.

nothing, and we should be satisfied with the indulgence which the Government has been pleased to show to us.

Circulation,
150 copies.

The *Nasimi Agra* of the 20th August states that cows are held in great reverence by the Hindus. The killing of cows in India. The Hindus hate every man who kills

a cow. The Emperor Akbar prohibited the killing of cows throughout India in order to win the good-will of the Hindus. To say nothing of the religious prejudices of the Hindus, it is manifest that the cow is the most useful domestic animal in India. The milk of cows is much prized as an article of food. Oxen are very extensively used as draught cattle. Moreover, agriculture in India is entirely carried on with the assistance of oxen. Beef is very extensively eaten by the British troops, and the lowest castes of the natives. Under these circumstances it is the duty of the Government and of every man who is interested in the welfare of India to put a stop to the great destruction of cows and oxen, which is now going on in the country. There are at present about sixty thousand British troops in India, and half a *seer* of beef is given to each soldier every day for six days in the week. Therefore seven hundred and fifty maunds of beef is required every day for the British Indian army. As each cow or ox yields about one and a half maunds of flesh, five hundred animals have to be killed each day. Computing at this rate the number of the animals killed in a year is 156,000. Supposing ten rupees to be the average price of an ox, the price of 156,000 oxen is Rs. 15,60,000. From this amount should be deducted the price realised from the sale of the heads and hides of the animals killed, which may be considered to be about one-fourth of that amount. Thus the annual cost of the beef required for the army is about Rs. 11,70,000. The quantity of beef required for the European community and the natives every day must be many times that required for the army. On a single day, called the *Íd*, several lakhs of cows and oxen are killed by the Musalmans. In this way about ten millions cows and oxen

are killed every year. Moreover, a very large number of cows and oxen has perished from various diseases and want of fodder during the past year. The result is that agriculturists have already begun to suffer from the scarcity and increased price of these animals. Beef should be given to the British troops only three or four days instead of six days in the week, and on the remaining days either the flesh of wild animals, such as pigs, deer, leopards, stags, &c., should be given to them, or fish and milk. This question is deserving of the attention of the army commission. In order to check the slaughter of cows and oxen by butchers, a heavy tax should be levied upon the killing of these animals.

Circulation,
150 copies.

The *Promod Sindhu* of the 25th August states that as the Ramoshis in the Deccan are suffering from want of employment, and have no honest means of earning their livelihood, they have begun to commit theft and robbery. They are generally stout, active, and brave men. They are specially famous for their faithfulness to their employers, and readily sacrifice their lives in behalf of the latter. Under the late *régime*, when robberies were very frequent, rich persons used to engage the services of Ramoshis to guard their property. The Government should provide employment for the Ramoshis by admitting them into the army.

Circulation,
155 copies.

The *Vrita Dhara* of the 18th August states that the patils of two villages in Poona were lately arrested by the police, on the charge of giving food grain to the dakaitis, and loaded with irons. The prisoners stated before the judge that they supplied the dakaitis with provisions in order to protect themselves from violence, and their statement was corroborated by the evidence of witnesses. The judge released the prisoners, and warned the police not to harass the people unnecessarily. It will be observed that the prisoners were treated with harshness by the police. They

The ill-treatment of under-trial prisoners by the police.

were several times carried from the prison to the court and back to the prison through public streets and thoroughfares loaded with irons. Respectable prisoners should not be manacled until after conviction. Moreover, the police should be very careful in arresting persons who are suspected of having committed any crime. Only educated men acquainted with law should be appointed chief constables.

The same paper states that when the rule of the Peshwas was destroyed, and British rule established, the Government suppressed the Pindaries, put a stop to the disorders

The prevalence of famine and disorder in the country.

that formerly prevailed, and established peace and order in the country. It introduced many reforms during the forty years that followed, and won the good-will of the people. However, heaven did not like this state of things, and, owing to the stubbornness of the rulers, or the ambition of the natives, the mutiny of 1857 took place, which inflicted great loss of life and property both upon the rulers and the ruled. The Government succeeded with great difficulty in suppressing the mutiny, and restoring peace and order. After the mutiny the rulers began to distrust the people, to treat them with severity, and to levy heavy taxes upon them. The people were exposed to great distress, and the governors and the governed feared each other. However, they tried to pull together as best they could for twelve years. Even if this state of things had continued, great good would have accrued to the country from British rule. Heaven did not approve of this state of things, and when He saw that the rulers had become very powerful, and the ruled very weak, He sent famine, which gradually spread over the whole country, and subjected the people to great distress. Although the Government rendered great relief to famine-stricken persons, thousands of them perished from starvation. The Government held the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, whose grandeur made the people forget their sufferings, and the whole country resounded with joy for a time. We expected that now that Her Majesty has

assumed the title of Empress of India, the country would enjoy continued happiness. But we have been unfortunately disappointed in our hopes. The famine was immediately followed by the Kabul war. The treaty of peace was hardly concluded with the Amir, when disorders and disturbances broke out in all parts of the country. Riots are prevailing in Rumpa, in the Madras Presidency. The Ramoshis are committing robbery and plundering in the Deccan. The gangs of dakaits are harassing the people in Sindh and Kuttiawar. Dreadful famine is raging in Kashmir. The people in Bengal are suffering from high prices. Although there are no riots of any kind in native States, high prices also prevail there. Hence it is obvious that disorder and distress prevail in all parts of the country. The natives, who have been exposed to great distress for hundreds of years since the establishment of foreign rule in the country, will probably not long be able to bear this state of things. In order to put a stop to the extensive disorder that prevails in the country, it will not be sufficient to hang fifty or a hundred rioters. The Government should find out the real cause of that disorder, and remove it, in order that permanent peace may be established all over the country, and we may enjoy the full benefits of British rule.

Circulation,
165 copies.

The *Nairang Mazdamin* of the 15th August (received on the 23rd idem) publishes the following Pandit Har Sahai's case. telegram which was sent by a correspondent from Naini Tal on the 3rd August to the *Pioneer* :—

“I hear on good authority, though no special disclosure has yet been made, that the report of the Har Sahai Commission is as follows :—The two native members find that Har Sahai never assaulted the judge at all, and that the witnesses were tutored by the judge. The President, Mr. Brodhurst, found that the assault had been committed, but under gross provocation: and combined with this principal finding various minor statements injurious to the judge, and

some of them impugning his veracity. The Lieutenant-Governor has disapproved of the whole proceedings, and I imagine the Supreme Government will now be sorry it took any steps in the matter. Of course the native finding is simply childish. We must wait for the text of Mr. Brod-hurst's judgment before pronouncing on that; but the present account of it does not lead one to expect that it will prove very discreet or intelligent."

In regard to the above extract, the *Nairang Mazámín* remarks that the Government made a great mistake when it appointed two select native officers and an able European judge members of the commission. It would be quite sufficient to appoint the Naini Tal correspondent of the *Pioneer* to inquire into the case, whose wisdom and justice are manifest from the above extract. The opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor has transpired. Now it remains to be seen what conclusion His Excellency the Viceroy arrives at. We are afraid lest the case should be decided in opposition to the finding of the commission, as was done in the Baroda case.

A correspondent of the *Punjab Punch* of the 25th August states that he dreamt one night that he ascended a high hill. On the top of the hill he saw a tall young man of a dark complexion. His appearance indicated that he was in great distress. Three dreadful serpents clung to his body, and an ugly negress sat before him. The writer asked him who he was, who the negress was, and why the serpents stuck to his body. He replied that he was India, that the three serpents were the tax, famine, and cholera, which sucked his life blood, and that the negress who sat before him was reduction, and wished to partake of his blood. Moreover, he said that he had come to the top of the hill to pray that reduction should affect both the Natives and the Europeans, and asked the writer to bring this matter to the notice of Lord Lytton. The writer wrote an account of all this, and put it into the post for Lord Lytton.

Circulation,
225 copies.

The same paper publishes a picture in which Englishmen are represented as carrying the riches of India in a carriage, drawn by two powerful bullocks, to England. The carriage is closely pursued by a number of bull dogs, who wish to stop it. The letter press is as follows :—

O! the riches of India are on their way to England. The greedy, i.e., Russia, &c., closely pursue the carriage, and are not aware that Englishmen will not appropriate the riches to their own use, but will return them to the natives in different ways.

The *Dabir i-Hind* of the 23rd August states that according to circular No. 77, dated 23rd August, 1872, public servants when deputed on special duty are entitled to travelling allowance at the rate of four annas a mile when they travel by *dak* more than fifteen miles. In April last Malik Muhammad Yarkhan, the hospital assistant of Saghai, Kheri, Oudh, was ordered by the civil surgeon to go into the interior of the pargana to treat cholera patients. Before departing, the hospital assistant informed the civil surgeon that according to the circular above quoted he would be entitled to travelling allowance at the rate of four annas a mile. The civil surgeon replied that he would pay him at that rate. But when the hospital assistant submitted a bill for Rs. 32-12-0, drawn at the rate of four annas a mile for the month of June last, the civil surgeon cut down the bill to Rs. 10. On this the former submitted a petition to the latter on the 21st July, protesting against the reduction of his travelling allowance, and praying that it may be forwarded to the Deputy Surgeon-General. But the civil surgeon did not forward it to the Deputy Surgeon-General, and returned it to him on the 4th August. The writer hopes that the Government will take the case of the hospital assistant into its favorable consideration.

The *Oudh Akhbār* of the 22nd August publishes a communicated article in which the writer complains that pleaders are accustomed to exact fees or presents called *shukrána** over and above their legal fees from suitors. We would not object to the voluntary payment of *shukrána* by suitors in special cases, as for instance when a case is a very difficult and complicated one, &c. But the pleaders have begun to consider *shukrána* as a legal fee, and take it from the suitors in almost every case. Sometimes a pleader even compels a suitor to enter into a written agreement, to the effect that if he wins the case he will pay the former so much *shukrána*. If he fails to pay it according to the agreement, the pleader sues him and obtains a decree from court for the amount. The Government fixed the rate of the fee of pleaders with the object of protecting suitors against their extortion, but the practice above referred to is calculated to defeat this object.

Circulation,
719 copies.

The *Anjuman-i Panjab* of the 22nd August states that it is an act of wisdom on the part of the Government that it has appointed a commission to inquire into the case of Pandit Har Sahai. In view of the great notoriety which the case has acquired, it was absolutely necessary to appoint a commission. The case is really a very delicate one, as it affects a European and a native officer. We hope that the commission will decide the case very carefully. The whole of India anxiously awaits its decision. It appears from the evidence of witnesses that both Mr. Saunders and Pandit Har Sahai were guilty of misconduct, and in our humble opinion, which concurs with that of the public, both of them should be fined.

Circulation,
408 copies.

The *Rahlar-i-Hind* of the 25th August, in regard to the Simla telegram of the 12th August, giving a summary of the new rules about the admission of natives into the civil service.

Circulation,
475 copies.

* *Shukrána* is a fee or present paid to a pleader, &c., by the successful party to a suit, over and above the legal fees.

the civil service, remarks that every native must have received the news with feelings of joy and gratitude. It appears from the rules that the proportion of native recruits to Europeans appointed every year will be one-sixth, and the pay of the former will be two-thirds that of the latter. We think that, barring these two restrictions, the native and European civilians will be placed on a footing of equality, and the former will be eligible to the offices of deputy commissioner, commissioner, and other high offices. Lord Lytton, while referring to the question of the admission of natives into the higher grades of the public service in the course of his address at the late Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, declared that natives could not be entrusted with district charges. The natives could not conceive the cause of their exclusion from district charges, and considered it incompatible with the liberal policy of Lord Lytton's Government. It is a matter of great satisfaction that no such exclusion is referred to in the telegram of the 12th August. The natives are faithful and contented, and, therefore, they should be satisfied with the concession which the Government has been pleased to grant to them. There is no doubt that those men who claim equal rights and privileges for their countrymen with Europeans, will disapprove of the restrictions as to the number and pay of native civilians, on the ground that they are calculated to maintain the distinction between the rulers and the ruled. However, we should be satisfied with the new rules, and consider them only as the first fruits.

Circulation,
650 copies.

A correspondent of the *Aftab-i-Panjab* of the 22nd August, writing from Rawalpindi, complains that the license tax has been very heavily assessed at Atak and Rawalpindi. Those persons who paid one rupee last year have been called upon to pay five rupees this year. The officers have probably assessed the entire stock in trade of the traders instead of assessing their annual incomes. If a poor

shoe-maker, who earns two or three annas a day, were asked to pay a license fee of one rupee, how would he be able to pay it?

The *Safir-i-Hind* of the 23rd August, says that when a native chief is found incapable of managing his estate, and is involved in debt, the Government places it under the management of the court of wards. In paying his debts the Government sometime pays them after deducting twenty or thirty per cent. from them, which is not just. The native chiefs whose estates are placed under the management of the court of wards cannot be considered as bankrupt, because their assets are not disposed of to pay their creditors. If there is reason to suspect that a creditor has dishonestly increased the proper amount of the debt, he should be required to prove his claim. But it is by no means just to arbitrarily make any deductions.

Circulation,
170 copies.

The same paper states that disputes between the Hindu widows and the relatives of their deceased husbands about immovable property are very frequent in the Panjáb. According to the Hindu law no widow can transfer immovable property except on some prescribed occasions. When there is a quarrel between a widow and the relatives of her husband, she tries to transfer her immovable property, even if she has sufficient movable property for her support, in order to leave no inheritance to them on her death. On the contrary, they try to prevent her from doing so, and harass her as much as possible. In order to put a stop to these quarrels, the Government should enact a law allowing Hindu widows to adopt sons from among the relatives of their husbands. A widow should be free to adopt any one she pleases, provided he belongs to the same family as her husband. The fate of Hindu widows is very pitiable. They are aggrieved by the death of their husbands, and are prohibited by custom from marrying. Moreover, if any of them wishes to adopt a son, she is not

Circulation,
170 copies.

free to select one, but the relatives of her husband force one of their own choice upon her, which is very unjust.

Circulation,
170 copies.

The same paper expresses its concurrence with the *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 18th idem, in thinking that the complaints brought against the Munsif of Zafrawála by the Hindu money-lenders of the town are absolutely unfounded, and that they are displeased with him because he shows no partiality to them (see page 647 of the *Selections* for the week ending the 21st August, 1879.)

Circulation,
330 copies.

The *Mirat-ul-Hind* for August, states that like the civil and military officers the chaplains are paid from the public treasury. It is difficult to realise what benefit India derives from the maintenance of the ecclesiastical department which involves a heavy expenditure. The ecclesiastical officers are very fortunate men. They are paid for doing little or nothing, and travel in different parts of the country at the public expense. In return for this charity of the Government Archdeacon Baly has loyally drawn the attention of the Government to a very important subject. He lately recorded a long minute on the question of the education of the poor Europeans and Eurasians, and forwarded it to the Government, of India. In the minute he complained that more money was spent on the education of the natives than what was necessary, and urged the need of making special provision for the education of the children of the poor Europeans and Eurasians. The *Pioneer* warmly approved of his proposal, and published false statistics to show that the average annual cost to the State for a native student was much greater than that for a European. The statistical mistakes of our contemporary were exposed by a professor of the Muir Central College in its own columns. When the Government of India asked Archdeacon Baly what imperative necessity

there was to provide special means for the education of the poor Europeans and Eurasians at the time of the present financial pressure, he replied that if they attended the native schools and mixed with the natives, they would forget what they had already learnt. This reply is a good index of his feelings towards the natives. It is obvious that the Europeans and the Eurasians, who are permanently domiciled in India should know the vernacular, and that they would easily learn the vernacular by attending the native schools. The fact of the matter is that the schools and colleges established for the education of the natives are also sufficient for the education of the Europeans and Eurasians, but that the latter do not attend them through their idleness and false race-pride. The best way of removing the evil would be that all of them should be transported to some distant island, in order that they might not come in contact with the natives.

A local correspondent of the same paper expresses his gratitude to the Government for the introduction of the quarter anna post cards, and remarks that as no private messages of a secret nature can be despatched through them, and as the letters written on them, specially those written with native ink, are smudged and obliterated in transmission in the rainy weather, it would be better if thin letter-papers, quarter of a *tola* in weight, with quarter anna stamps embossed on them, were introduced instead.

The writer, in regard to the inquiries that are being made in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh about the use of forged court-fee stamps, remarks that it is surprising that the European Commissioner of Stamps did not become acquainted with the use of forged stamps until lakhs of rupees worth of such stamps had been used. Had he been a native, he would certainly have been taken to task for his carelessness. The Commissioner of Stamps should be abolished, and the use of

court-fee stamps discontinued. Courts should take court-fees in cash from the suitors. At each court the officer who receives petitions should take the money, and certify on each petition that the court-fee has been paid. An additional muharrir should be given to him, to keep an account of the court-fees realised in this way.

RAILWAY.

Circulation,
150 copies.

The *Nasim-i-Agra* of the 20th August complains that on the 17th August, when some women were entering into a railway carriage at the East India railway station, Agra, a European railway servant kicked a woman from behind. A native railway servant followed the example of the European and kicked her. Both of them treated several other women in the same way.

LOCAL.

A correspondent of the *Dabiri-Hind* of the 23rd August, writing from Agra, complains of the prevalence of fever at Agra. About fifty-four persons die every day. The cause of the prevalence of fever seems to be that the nightsoil of the whole town is collected in the large holes situated near the town between the madari gate and Vazirpura.

Circulation,
250 copies.

The *Shola Tar* of the 26th August states that under the new Oudh judicial scheme, munsifs' courts have been established at Sháhábád, Sandila and Bilgram, in the Hardoi district. Sháhábád and Sandila are situated by railway, and, therefore, pleaders experience no difficulty in going from Hardoi to those places. But there is only a *kacha* road from Hardoi to Bilgram, and is at present wholly covered with water, therefore, pleaders are exposed to great inconvenience in going from Hardoi to Bilgram. The district officers should improve the road.

A correspondent of the *Marwar Gazette* of the 18th August, writing from Muttra, states that a robbery has been lately committed on the Dik road and five hundred rupees worth of property stolen.

Circulation,
100 copies.

The *Nasim-i-Agra* of the 20th August, in its local news column, states that there are many famine-stricken persons at Agra. They rob articles of food from persons carrying them in streets. Their wailing and crying at night in streets and thoroughfares are a source of great inconvenience to the people.

Circulation,
150 copies.

The prevalence of fever at Agra. The same paper complains of the prevalence of fever at Agra.

The same paper complains that the daroga and chaprassis of the pontoon bridge at Agra are under suspension for one month, have to attend the police station for the whole day, and have not yet been told what offence they have committed.

The Daroga and chaprassis of the pontoon bridge, Agra.

The *Berar Mitra*, Ellichpur, of the 19th August (received on the 22nd idem), complains that petition-writers at Ellichpur extort exorbitant fees from suitors for writing petitions. They tell the petitioners that they have obtained a license for writing petitions from the court, and that their fees have been fixed by Government. As they sit near the court, and have access to the circular files of the court, ignorant petitioners consider them to be licensed petition-writers, and pay the fees demanded by them. They should not be allowed to sit near the court.

Circulation,
105 copies.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Aligarh Institute Gazette* of the 26th August states that custom has triumphed over the Quran in India. Although the Mussalmans are expressly allowed by the

Circulation,
297 copies.

The prejudice of the Mussalmans of India against dining with Europeans.

Quran to dine with Christians, the Musalmans of India refrain from doing so. It is a matter of great satisfaction that persons have lately begun to break through this prejudice. We have heard that Haji Muhammad Ismail Khan, the *rais* of Datauli (Aligarh), lately gave a feast to Mr. Smith, and that Mr. Smith, his brother, Mrs. Smith, Haji Muhammad Ismail Khan, the *rais* of Datauli, Muhammad Mustafi Khan, the *rais* of Baragaon, and Muhammad Salim-ulla Khan, dined together at the same table.

Circulation,
46 copies.

The *Matla Nūr*, Cawnpore, of the 19th August, republishes the rumour, which is said to be afloat at Benares about the birth of a great Hindu king, (see page 638 of the *Selections* for the week ending the 14th August, 1879), and remarks that no sensible man will believe such a foolish rumour.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

| No. | NAME. | LOCALITY. | LANGUAGE. | MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE. | NAME OF PUBLISHER. | DATE OF PAPER. | DATE OF RECEIPT. | CIRCULATION. |
|-----|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Aftab-i-Panjab | Lahore | Urdu | Bi-weekly | Divan Buta Singh, | Augt. 22nd & 25th | 1879. Augt. 25th & 28th, respectively. | 650 copies. |
| 2 | Afzal-ul-Akhbar | Muzaffarnagar. | Ditto | Weekly | M u h a m m a d Akbar. | 18th & 25th | " 24th & 28th, respectively. | " |
| 3 | Agra Akhbar | Agra | Ditto | Ditto | Khawaja Usaf Ali, | 21st | 24th | 225 " |
| 4 | Akhbar-i-A'lam | Meerut | Ditto | Ditto | Kamta Prasad | 23rd | 28th | 100 " |
| 5 | Akhbar-i-A'm | Lahore | Ditto | Ditto | Mokand Ram | 20th | 23rd | 1,245 copies (including 355 copies taken by Govt.) |
| 6 | Akhbar-i-Jalesar | Jalesar | Ditto | Bi-monthly, | Muhammad Wajih-ud-din. | 15th | 26th | " |
| 7 | Akhbar-i-Tamangadi, | Lucknow, | Ditto | Weekly | Puran Chand | 24th | " | 125 copies. |
| 8 | Akmal-ul-Akhbar | Delhi | Ditto | Ditto | Sayyid Fakhr-ud-din. | 19th | 22nd | 90 " |
| 9 | Aligarh Institute Gazette. | Aligarh | Urdu - English. | Bi-weekly | Sheikh Alim-ulla | 23rd & 26th | " 25th & 28th, respectively. | 297 copies (including 68 copies taken by Govt.) |
| 10 | Anjuman-i-Panjab | Lahore | Urdu | Weekly | Mir Nusar Ali | 22nd | 25th | 408 copies (including 200 copies taken by Govt.) |
| 11 | Arya Mittra | Benares | Hindi | Ditto | Babu Bhut Nath, | " | " 24th | 600 copies. |

List of papers examined—(continued).

| No. | NAME. | LOCALITY. | LANGUAGE. | MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE. | NAME OF PUBLISHER. | DATE OF PAPER. | DATE OF RECEIPT. | CIRCULATION. |
|-----|----------------------------|------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 12 | <i>Ashraf-ul-Akhdar</i> | Delhi | Urdu | Tri-monthly | Mirza Khan | Augt. 21st | Augt. 23rd | 90 copies. |
| 13 | <i>Berār Mitr</i> | Ellichpur, | Marathi | Weekly | Eknath Sakha Ram, | " 19th | " 22nd | 105 " |
| 14 | <i>Berār Samāchār</i> | Akola | Ditto | Ditto | Khande Rao Balaji, | " 17th & 24th, | " 22nd & 28th | 250 " |
| 15 | <i>Dabdobah Qaisri</i> | Bareilly | Urdu | Ditto | Raj Bahadur | " 23rd | " 26th | 183 " |
| 16 | <i>Dabdobah Sikandri,</i> | Rampur | Ditto | Ditto | Muhammad Husain | " 25th | " 27th | 365 " |
| 17 | <i>Dabirī Hind</i> | Allahabad, | Ditto | Ditto | Khan. Mirza Mphammad | " 23rd | " 23rd | ... |
| 18 | <i>Dāvati Haq</i> | Delhi | Ditto | Bi-monthly | Abdul Rashid | 15th | 22nd | ... |
| 19 | <i>Gwalior Gazette</i> | Gwalior | Hindi-Urdu, | Weekly | ... | " 17th | " 23rd | ... |
| 20 | <i>Jalwah Tūr</i> | Meerūt | Urdu | Ditto | Rai Ganeshi Lal | " 24th | " 27th | 105 " |
| 21 | <i>Kārnāmāh</i> | Lucknow, | Ditto | Ditto | Muhammad Yaqub, | " 25th | " " | 250 " |
| 22 | <i>Kāshi Patrikā</i> | Benares | Hindi-Urdu, | Bi-monthly... | Baleshwar Prasad, | " 15th | " 23rd | 440 copies (in- cluding 200 copies taken by Govt.) |
| 23 | <i>Kavi Vachan Sudhā,</i> | Ditto | Hindi | Weekly | Chintamani Sarma, | 25th | 28th | 275 copies. |
| 24 | <i>Khair Khwāh-i-Alam</i> | Delhi | Urdu | Ditto | Mir Hasan | " 24th | " 27th | 105 " |
| 25 | <i>Khair Khwāh-i-Oudh,</i> | Lucknow, | Ditto | Bi-monthly, | Khairati Lal | " 15th | " " | 25 " |
| 26 | <i>Koh-i-Nār</i> | Lahore | Ditto | Weekly | Jawwad Ali | " 23rd | " 25th | 630 copies (in- cluding 70 co- pies taken by Govt.) |
| 27 | <i>Lama-i-Nār</i> | Jaunpur | Ditto | Ditto | Abdulla Khan | " 10th & 17th | " 25th & 27th, respectively. | 50 copies. |

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|----|---------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 28 | Lawrence Gazette | Meerut | Ditto | Daily | Sayyid Jamil-ud-din. | 16th to 21st | 22nd to 27th, respectively. | 400 | " |
| 29 | Lytton Gazette | Delhi | Ditto | Bi-monthly, | Bulaqi Das. | 21st | 23rd | 125 | " |
| 30 | Milwa Akhbar | Indore | Marathi | Weekly | Ganesh Raghonath | 22nd | 27th | 175 | " |
| 31 | Mérwar Gazette | Jodhpur | Hindi-Urdu, | Ditto | Gobardhan Das | 18th | 23rd | 100 | " |
| 32 | Mashir-i-Qaisar | Lucknow, | Urdu | Ditto | Ghulam Muhammad Khan. | 21st | " | 150 | " |
| 33 | Mihir-i-Nimroz | Bijnor | Ditto | Ditto | Kishan Narain | " | 25th | 330 | " |
| 34 | Mirdt-ul-i-Hind | Lucknow, | Ditto | Monthly | Mokand Ram | 15th | 22nd | 200 | " |
| 35 | Mitra Bilas | Lahore | Hindi | Weekly | Khairati Lal | 25th | 28th | 25 | " |
| 36 | Mumba-ul-Akhbar | Lucknow, | Urdu | Bi-monthly, | Nabi Bakhsh | 15th | 22nd | 46 | " |
| 37 | Mutla-i-Nar | Cawnpore, | Ditto | Weekly | | 19th to 26th | 22nd & 28th, respectively. | | " |
| 38 | Naiar-i-Azam | Moradabad | Ditto | Ditto | Amjid Ali | 18th | 24th | 100 | " |
| 39 | Nairang Mazamin | Muttra | Ditto | Bi-monthly | Meva Ram | 15th | 23rd | 165 | " |
| 40 | Najm-ul-Akhbar | Meerut | Ditto | Daily | Muhammad Hayat, | 17th & 23rd | 22nd to 28th, respectively. | 413 | " |
| 41 | Nasim-i-Agra | Agra | Ditto | Tri-monthly | Yudhistar Chandar Das. | 20th | 22nd | 150 | " |
| 42 | Nizam-lu-Akhbar | Delhi | Ditto | Weekly | Murari Lal | 18th | 24th | 15 | " |
| 43 | Nar-i-Afshan | Ludhiana, | Ditto | Ditto | Rev. A. P. Kelso | 21st | 23rd | 430 | " |
| 44 | Nar-ul-Anwar | Cawnpore, | Ditto | Ditto | Muhammad Yaqub, | 23rd | " | 450 | " |
| 45 | Oudh Akhbar | Lucknow, | Ditto | Daily | Sheo Prasad | 22nd to 28th | 22nd to 28th, respectively. | 719 copies (including 90 copies taken by Govt.) | " |
| 46 | Panjab Punch | Lahore | Ditto | Weekly | Fateh-ud-din | 25th | 27th | 225 copies. | " |
| 47 | Patiala Akhbar | Patiala | Ditto | Ditto | Rikhi Kesh | " | 28th | 250 | " |
| 48 | Pramod Sindhu | Umraoti | Marathi | Ditto | Eshvant Gobind Saktar. | " | 27th | 150 | " |
| 49 | Prince of Wales' Gazette. | Meerut | Urdu | Ditto | Rai Ganeshi Lal | 20th | 23rd | 85 | " |
| 50 | Qaisar-ul-Akhbar | Allahabad, | Ditto | Ditto | Siraj-ud-din Ahmad | 24th | 25th | 150 | " |
| 51 | Rafah-i-Am | Sialkot | Ditto | Bi-monthly, | Divan Chand | 19th | 23rd | 620 | " |

List of papers examined—(concluded).

| NAME. | LOCALITY. | LANGUAGE. | MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE. | NAME OF PUBLISHER. | DATE OF PAPER. | DATE OF RECEIPT. | CIRCULATION. |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 52 <i>Rahbar-i-Hind</i> | Lahore | Urdu | Weekly | Nadir Ali Shah | Augt. 25th | Augt. 26th | 475 copies. |
| 53 <i>Sadiq-ul-Akhbar</i> | Bhawalpur | Ditto | Ditto | Ata-ul-la | " 18th | " 23rd | 150 " |
| 54 <i>Safir-i-Hind</i> | Amritsar, | Ditto | Ditto | Revd. Rajab Ali | " 2nd & 23rd | " 26th | 170 " |
| 55 <i>Somachar Sar</i> | Allahabad, | Bengali | Ditto | Lal Gopal Chackar-wati. | " 25th | " " | 600 " |
| 56 <i>Shafah-ul-Sudur</i> | Lahore | Arabic | Monthly | Maulvi Faizul Hasan. | July, 15th | " 25th | 100 " |
| 57 <i>Shela-i-Tar</i> | Cawnpore, | Urdu | Weekly | Haidar Ali | Augt. 26th | " 28th | 250 " |
| 58 <i>Subah Benares</i> | Benares | Ditto | Ditto | Babu Bhutnath | " 25th | " " | ... |
| 59 <i>Takrib-ul-Akhlaq</i> | Aligarh | Ditto | Monthly | Sheikh Alim-ulla | For the month of August. | " 24th | ... |
| 60 <i>Vakil-i-Hindustan</i> | Amritsar, | Ditto | Weekly | Umar Din | " 23rd | " 25th | 235 |
| 61 <i>Vrit Dhard</i> | Dhar | Marathi | Ditto | Hari Bhaskar | " 18th | " 22nd | 155 " |

ALLAHABAD, }
The 1st September, 1879.

PRIYA DAS,
Govt. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.